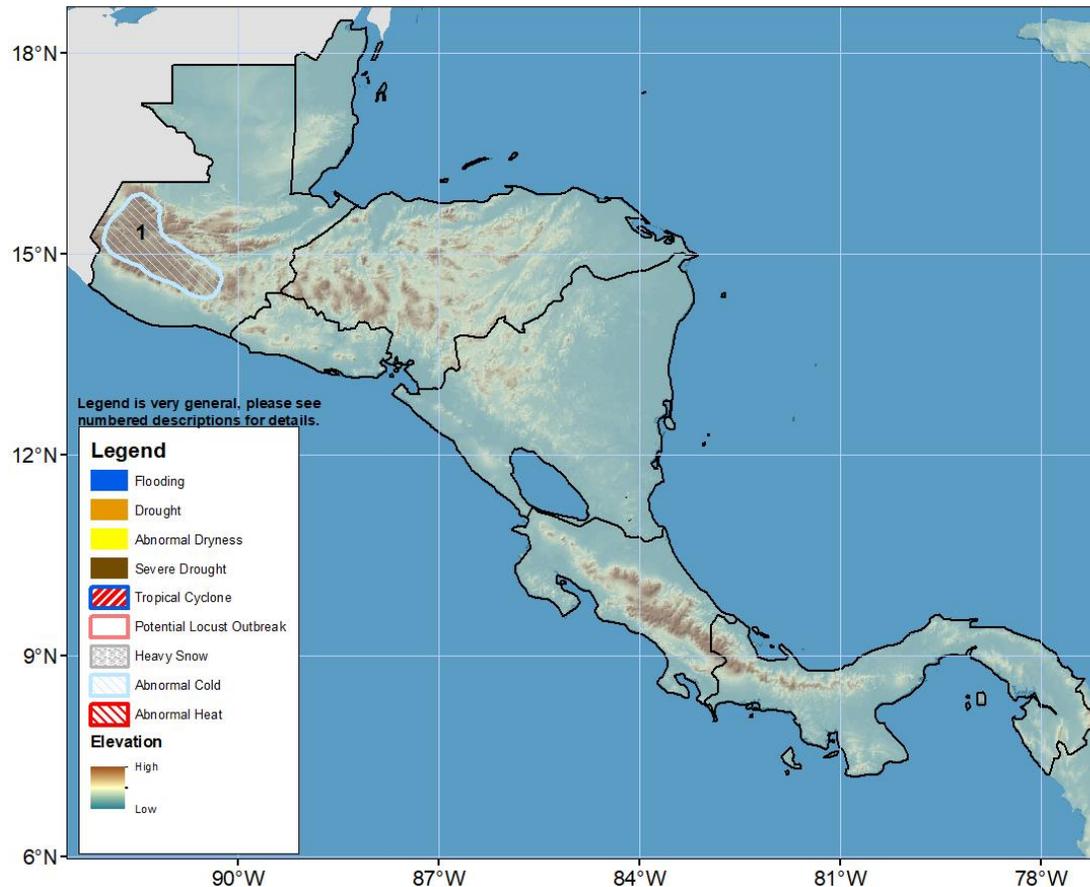


Climate Prediction Center's Central America Hazards Outlook For USAID / FEWS-NET 23 February – 01 March 2023

Cold weather conditions are forecast in the west and central highlands of Guatemala during the next week.



1. Below-freezing and cold temperatures are expected in western Guatemala and central highlands during the next week, potentially affecting crop development. In addition, a forecasted low-pressure system might likely bring rainfall and wind conditions, which may increase the flood risk in localized areas in the Petén department in northern Guatemala.

Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium-range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), sub-seasonal forecasts up to 4 weeks, and assesses the potential impact of extreme events on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed and predicted to continue during the outlook period. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at the spatial scale of the map. This product takes into account long-range seasonal climate forecasts but does not reflect current or projected food security conditions. FEWS NET is a USAID-funded activity whose purpose is to provide objective information about food security conditions. Its views are not necessarily reflective of those of USAID or the U.S. Government. The FEWS NET weather hazards outlook process and products include participation by FEWS NET field and home offices, NOAA-CPC, USGS, USDA, NASA, and a number of other national and regional organizations in the countries concerned.

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Below-normal rainfall conditions are expected in some areas in Central America during the following week.

During the last week, normal conditions were observed in most of Central America. However, central and northern Guatemala and localized areas in Honduras and Nicaragua showed positive rainfall anomalies. Moderate rain (up to 50 mm) was observed in central and northern Guatemala, and localized areas in northwestern Honduras and northwestern Nicaragua; meanwhile, light rain fell in eastern areas in Honduras, Nicaragua, and northern Costa Rica (up to 25 mm). During the past 30 days, slight positive rainfall anomalies have been observed mainly in Belize, central and northern Guatemala, and central Costa Rica. However, over the past 90 days, eastern Costa Rica and Panama have shown seasonal below-average rainfall conditions, with an accumulation accounting for only between 5-50 percent of the average. Further, the last analysis indicates that near-average vegetation conditions are predominant over Central America. Meanwhile, freezing and cold temperatures, and strong winds have been reported in the western and central highlands of Guatemala during the last week.

During the next week, rainfall forecasts suggest little to moderate amounts in Belize, western and central Guatemala, Panama, and eastern coastal areas of Honduras, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. However, the forecast shows slightly below-average rainfall conditions in central Guatemala, northern Honduras, most of Costa Rica, and many areas in Panama; normal conditions are expected elsewhere. Furthermore, the minimum temperature anomalies forecast suggests below-freezing and cold temperatures during next week in western Guatemala and central highlands, potentially negatively affecting crop development in the region.

